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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,111	08/20/2003	Keith A. Sauerland	03093	6528
30114	7590	02/09/2006	EXAMINER	
MERONI + MERONI P.O. BOX 309 BARRINGTON, IL 60011			BRADFORD, RODERICK D	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3762

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,111	SAUERLAND, KEITH A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Roderick Bradford	3762	

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-8,21-24 and 26-34 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,533,736 in view of Milam et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,186,957.

Referring to claim 25 Moore discloses: a hand held sound sensing device and shaped for being grasped by a hand and having stethoscope head for sensing auscultatory sounds (14) and a microphone for sensing sound communications (abstract); a transmitter within the device for transmitting sounds sensed by the device (fig.15); a receiver for receiving transmissions from the transmitter (fig.15); and an ear piece for converting the received transmissions into audible sound (12).

Milam discloses a no slip grip connected to the outer portion providing an improved gripping surface (fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Moore to include a no slip grip connected to the outer portion providing an improved gripping surface, such as taught by Milam, as a means to protect the stethoscope.

However, Moore in view of Milam discloses the claimed invention except for a magnetic induction transmitter. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice

to one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Moore in view of Milam with a magnetic induction transmitter, since applicant has not disclosed that a magnetic induction transmitter provides any criticality and/or unexpected results and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any transmitter, such as the transmitter as taught by Moore in view of Milam as a means of transmitting sound from the stethoscope head to the ear piece.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8, 21-24, 26-34 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roderick Bradford whose telephone number is (571) 272-4942. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3762

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

R. Broadhead

R.B.

Angela Sykes

ANGELA D. SYKES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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